The Southern PATRIOT

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GENE MITCHELL GRAY, first Negro ever to attend Tennessee University, was "rewarded" with a shift of hours by his employers, a large Knoxville Hotel. Strangely enough, his new working schedule would make it impossible to attend class. Gray, however, refused the hint, quit his job and is sticking to his hard-won studies. Times are tough for him, his wife and baby and the Pittsburgh Courier is seeking contributions. P.O. Box 1828, Pittsburgh.

Poll Shows Negro Hospital Needs

A hospital survey of 18 Southern and border states discloses that Negroes have access to 32.4 per cent of the existing bed space in 676 medical institutions.

The administrators of 2,414 listed hospitals in the region were polled by the Southern Conference Educational Fund. The results were announced last month by Aubrey Williams, fund president, at the annual meeting of the board of directors.

Of a total of 102,969 beds, it was learned that Negroes are admitted to 33,451, he said. Eighty-two per cent of the institutions accept Negro patients. Only 31 per cent permit Negro doctors staff courtesies.

"While the number of beds allotted Negroes may seem to be in proportion to census figures," Mr. Williams declared, "it should be remembered the prejudice, not actual need, often determines this number. Too many times a deserving patient is turned away because the bed space available is not in the ward designated for his color.

"Furthermore, in several states, a single large hospital offers almost half the number of beds listed as available to Negroes. The inconvenience and health dangers to people in distant areas can be imagined."

According to the survey, a segregated quota basis for Negro admissions is followed by 406 institutions and 125, with 23,062 beds, do not accept Negro patients at all.

Nearly six per cent of the hospitals practice segregation, but place no limit on Negro patients. An unsegregated, unlimited policy prevails at 68 institutions (10.5 per cent.)

Federal establishments and specialized health centers were not incorporated in this section of the poll, which covered the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Hospital administrators were also asked what racial policy they considered best suited for the health needs of their communities.

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Florida: Klan Vs. Conscience

The echoes of the bomb that killed Harry Moore still reverberate. Florida has become a compelling symbol, a site where the struggle between democracy and racism in the South is being waged in the open.

ITEM: An honored speaker at a meeting of 67 Florida sheriffs was the Grand Dragon of the Florida Klan, Bill Hendrix.

Hendrix, a candidate for governor, outlined this program:

"No Negroes in white schools; protect all Florida peace officers against attack by Communist Negro organizations like the NAACP, and return the beaches stolen by the Jews at Miami Beach."

ITEM: In Miami, representatives of 60 leading white and Negro organizations met to form the Dade County Council on Community Relations.

Under the leadership of Hollis Rinehart, a member of the State Board of Control (which administrates Florida's educational institutions), the group intends to "forestall problems of intergroup tension" by community-wide action.

Inadequate Negro housing, hospital facilities, and economic discrimination were pointed out as major causes of the recent disorders.

The council appreciated the irony that "America's Winter Playground" should have, in Miami, less than three acres of playground for 55,000 Negro citizens.

ITEM: In Winter Garden, Fla., a Negro cab driver, Arthur Holland, was chased down, beaten and wounded in the head by a band of white men, who intended the brutal gesture as a "lesson" to the rest of the Negro community.

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Integration Lauded By Two Colleges

Integrated education at the University of Louisville is no "experiment," President Phillip Davidson declared in a recent address. "It is the result of 300 years of Americans living together."

And, discussing the 200 Negro students who have been attending U. of L. since the Jim Crow Municipal College was abandoned, he said:

"It is a magnificent thing to see . . . They are not there as Negroes . . . They are there as students and some of them are excellent students."

At Talladega College in Alabama, President A. D. Beittel announced the inauguration of a completely integrated educational program.

The formerly all-Negro college is now open to men and women of all races and the first white student has enrolled.

Commented Dr. Beittel (who is a member of the SCEF board):

"We know the walls of segregation are falling down. This is no time for a college with the reputation of Talladega College to stand by quietly and wait for Southern colleges under pressure of Supreme Court decisions to become slowly inclusive institutions."

For Talladega this means a return to the precepts of its Congregational founders. After the Civil War, there was no discrimination at it or other church-endowed schools until repressive state laws were passed.

Florida-

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"Go back and tell them that was just a sample," the assailants said in parting.

Winter Garden is near Groveland, site of the infamous "rape" case.

ITEM: In Jacksonville, Marian Anderson sang before a completely unsegregated audience of 2500.

Nervous auditorium officials at first insisted on segregation. But a group of white and Negro citizens dissuaded them and the concert went on without incident.

The following night, Miss Anderson enjoyed a similar reception before a mixed audience in Miami.

ITEM: The New Jersey Assembly, in a joint resolution, condemned the religious and racial disorders in Florida and petitioned President Truman and Congress for immediate action to stop it.

It is disappointing to note that, up to the time of this writing, neither the FBI nor local law enforcement officers have seemingly traced the perpetrators of the recent atrocities.

But evidence is ample of one thing: The outrages have made Floridians of good will fully aware of the bitter consequences of a segregated society.

If their search for remedy is given encouragement and succor, Florida, now the symbol of the festering South, may become the preceptor of a flowering South.

Phoenix, Ala.—When about 30 Negro teachers registered to vote on Feb. 1st in Russell County, the number of white-only-voting counties in Alabama was reduced to 4: Wilcox, Lowdnes, Monroe and Madison.

Carolina Justice Is Only Skin Deep

North Carolina's fantastic "sight rape" case (See Oct. 1951 Patriot) has ended, temporarily, in a mistrial.

Mack Ingram, a 44-year-old Negro father of nine children, was placed on trial in Caswell superior court for assaulting a white girl by "leering" at her and allegedly chasing her.

The jurors could not choose between this contention and the admitted fact that Ingram was never closer to the girl than 75 feet. He was only coming to see the girl's father, not chasing her, the defense contended.

Ingram was appealing a 2-year sentence he had received in recorder's court. The state solicitor indicated he would insist on re-trying the charges.

ANOTHER STORY

In Carthage, N. C., quite another form of justice was meted three white soldiers who reportedly confessed to the rape of the wife of a Negro GI fighting in Korea.

The jury settled for the mildest of possible indictments—"assault on a female"—and dealt them 16-24 month jail terms. (As in most Southern states, North Carolina "classifies" rape to give white offenders a legal loophole.)

And in Coochland, Va., a 16-year-old white youth charged with the attempted rape of a 12-year-old Negro girl won speedy acquittal.

As the Associated Negro Press bitterly commented: "There is no record of any Negro charged with the attempted rape of a white woman ever being acquitted in Virginia in over 50 years."

Miss. Episcopalians Take A Long Backward Step

The church has an important role to play if democracy and brotherhood are to prevail in the South.

Thus it is disturbing to learn of the regressive, un-Christian events that took place at the annual meeting of the Episcopal Council of Mississippi late in January.

Here is **Patriot** correspondent Hudson Churchill's account of the Greenville session:

"For over a generation, thanks to the liberal policy of the late Bishop Theodore DuBose Bratton, son of a Confederate general, who strongly endorsed the national anti-poll tax bill, Negro and white Episcopalians met, worshipped, deliberated and ate together at church council meetings.

"This year the Negro brethren came to the meeting assuming the same arrangement.

"There was a good representation of Negroes at the morning session of the council, but they learned that, for the first time, they were not invited to stay for the ostentatious luncheon which was to be served in the parish house where the meeting was being held.

"Baffled Negro lay delegates left and did not return. Negro rectors, who felt under obligation to make every effort possible to attend the sessions, finally found a place to buy a meal at some distance from the Greenville Episcopal Church.

"After buying their lunches and returning to the council, however, they found they were too late for the official council picture and for much of the business. Thus rebuffed, they did not stay for the election of delegates and a thoroughly undemocratic minority slate was elected to represent the diocese at the triennial national convention."

TRENDS

A bill providing that no hospital "shall deny care to a person solely by reason of race, color or creed," was unanimously passed in February by the Kentucky state senate.

Introduced by Sen. C. W. A. McCann of Louisville, this provision is an amendment to a licensing and inspection act governing medical institutions.

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Dr. T. K. Lawless, noted Negro dermatologist, made a scathing attack on bias in medicine in a recent speech at New Orleans:

"Thousands of physicians renege on their oaths when they refuse to treat the sick and injured because of their race. Such prejudice is not localized in the South however, but also prevails elsewhere. Mexicans, Japanese, Chinese, Italians and Filipinos all know what it is to taste the bitter brew of discrimination.

"Americans should realize how it shocks the colored race in other parts of the world to hear of and see in the U. S.—which theoretically symbolizes equality—hospitals which refuse to admit a suffering man because of the color of his skin."

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Police Chief "Bull" Connor of Birmingham received a fine and a suspended sentence for his conviction on moral charges brought by a disgruntled underling.

Such is the character of Alabama's arch-defender of white supremacy.

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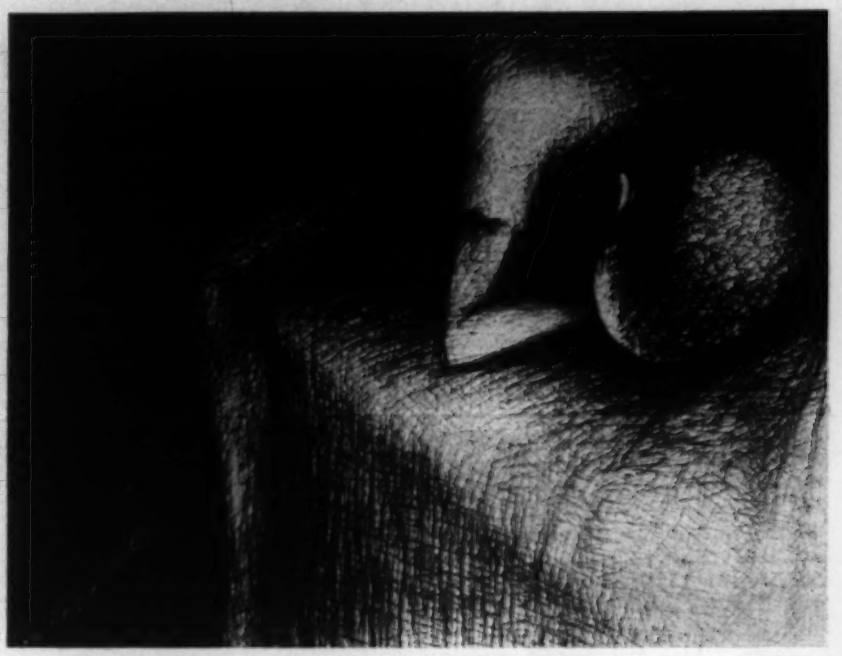
A survey of 30 key industrial cities in the U. S. made by the National Urban League found widespread discrimination against Negroes, especially in the skilled or white collar classes.

Firms with defense contracts were frequently found biased, with the aircraft industry drawing the most fire:

"In two plants in a Texas city only one Negro could be found, although there are approximately 5,000 people presently on the payroll.

"In Marietta, Ga., a large aircraft plant having 10,000 workers reported 500 Negroes, all but one of whom are employed as common laborers and material handlers."



"SLEEPING BOY" is the title of the carbon which won 28-year-old artist John T. Biggers top award in the Fifth Southwest Exhibition of Prints and Drawings, sponsored by the Dallas Print Society exhibit. Biggers, alumnus of Hampton Institute, and head of the department of art at Texas Southern University, has also won prizes in Houston and Atlanta.

Ford's Theater, Baltimore's only legitimate theater playhouse, has dropped the segregation policy which dates from its opening in 1871.

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The Women's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church has adopted a resolution demanding dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction, which serves as a Jim Crow "catchall" for Negro members.

Other jurisdictions are divided on purely geographic lines.

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A heartening innovation in Southern politics was the sheriff's race in St. John the Baptist Parish (county) of Louisiana.

The incumbent, Sheriff P. D. Hebert, had antagonized numerous vested interested by his enlightened treatment of Negro citizens—especially by his opening of the voter registration rolls.

But come campaign time, what happens? Negro leaders from all over the state came to stump for the sheriff. Hebert, moreover, hired a Negro as his campaign manager, Newspaperman James B. LaFourche.

And Hebert retained his office by a tidy margin.

Poll Shows-

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Of 711 who replied, 479 favored the admission of Negroes with seggregation; 127 favored admission without segregation; 76 suggested the creation of separate hospitals for Negroes and 69 either did not answer the question or offered other proposals.

"We all know that there is a serious shortage of hospital space in the South and in the rest of the nation," Mr. Williams asserted. "However, the Southern Conference Educational Fund believes that the democratic way to meet the situation is to share the facilities on the basis of need and not fence them with racistic walls."

The Fund is now conducting a poll of the 46,000 doctors practicing in the South to gain their views on hospital discrimination, he added.